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*La Recidiva nei reati, studio sperimentale.* GIUSEPPE ORANO. Roma, 1883, pp. 298.

The author considers recidivism theoretically in the first part of his book, and experimentally in the second part. After taking up the general notion and legislation of recidivism, and the dissension between criminologists as to the legitimacy of the threatened repression of the recidivists, he passes in the second part to the question of the aggravation of punishment in respect to age and physical conditions, and to the relations of recidivism to insanity, and comes to the following conclusions: Such ideas, as the relative insufficiency of objective physical force of punishment on account of the insensibility which the criminal opposes to it, the contempt which the guilty one manifests, the social danger which comes with the relapse, the consequent necessity of hindering this by the menace of a greater castigation, are abstract considerations, *a priori* criteria, bereft of the aid of positive enquiry, and consequently more hypotheses and conjectures than reasons. Thirty per cent. of the criminals in Italy are recidivists. In France, it was 43 per cent. for men and 31 per cent. for women in 1867; in Belgium at that time it was 45 per cent. and in Austria 59 per cent. for men and 51 per cent. for women, in Switzerland 45 per cent. The average shows that 45 per cent. of criminals are recidivists. The second and successive punishments are in general expiated in that period of time in which the human organism commences to lose its natural vigor; there is thus a certain aspect of injustice and inutility in punishing the recidivist. There is also a greater bitterness in a second or successive punishment between the ages of 25 and 30, the period in which recidivism is most conspicuous. As to the relation of recidivism to the carceral system, some of the most illustrious and competent men say that about six sevenths of the men are allured into relapse. Beranger says it is the prison which makes the recidivist. The influence of surroundings can be greater or less, but it does not affect substantially the great damage done by increasing the punishment of recidivists.

*Socialismo e Criminalità.* ENRICO FERRI. Roma, 1883, pp. 224.

The author says in his preface to the reader, that it is imposed upon contemporary science to embrace daily reality, and not platonic researches for archeological sweepings; and that this is not the love of science for its own sake, but for the sake of life. He calls attention to two new current ideas; one is the result of the experimental method in the study of criminal phenomena, the other is the effect of positivism in the study of economical facts. His conclusions are as follows: Crime, like all other manifestations of social pathology, is the offspring of the present social system; but socialism will change radically the state of society. In the new order of things, prophesied and desired, crime will disappear (in a manner more or less absolute), and with it the relative unproductive institutions, prisons, soldiers and judges. The social surroundings will be the best, and crime, like misery, ignorance, prostitution and immorality in general will finish their sad tyranny. The following are two general socialistic affirmations, which have immediate relation to the problem of the criminality of the future. The iron laws of the struggle for existence, which have dominated the animal world and humanity, will be eliminated from the economical order of socialism, which is the suppression of vital competition. Egoism, which in humanity, past and present, stands as a bar to all moral and social life, will disappear before altruism, disinterestedness, and love of neighbor, which will reign sovereign in the economical order of socialism.

*Les Récidivistes, par JOSEPH REINACH.* Paris, 1882. pp. 388.

This work is valuable, in that it gives a definite idea of the French penal system. The author describes in a forcible way the recidivistic